Amendments to the Claims

Please add Claims 16-19 to read as follows.

1. (Previously Presented) A discharging apparatus having a discharge head in which a plurality of discharge nozzles are arranged to discharge liquids supplied from supply ports through discharge ports, comprising:

joint members equal in number to a number of the discharge nozzles and being arranged to face the discharge nozzles, wherein each joint member operates to cover either the supply port or discharge port when removing the liquid in a discharge nozzle;

a connecting member selectively connectable to each of said joint members; and

a pump for being connected to said connecting member and removing the liquid in each of the discharge nozzles by applying a pressure difference between the supply port and discharge port of each discharge nozzle facing one of said joint members selectively connected to said connecting member,

wherein the pressure difference of the pump is applied to one of the discharge nozzles by connecting said connecting member to one of the joint members which has been operated to cover either the supply port or discharge port of the one of the discharge nozzles.

2.-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the discharge

head comprises electrothermal transducers which generate heat energy for liquid discharge.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the discharge head discharges the liquid from the discharge ports by utilizing film boiling caused by the heat energy applied by the electrothermal transducers.

8.-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the connecting member is detachable from said pump.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an assembly that holds said joint members such that adapter joints of said joint members, which are connected to said connecting member, are arranged on the same level.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said connecting member is selectively connectable to any one of said joint members by moving said connecting member to the position of said one joint member.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of said joint members operates to cover only one of the discharge nozzles.

16. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the discharge ports or the supply ports are arranged on a flat surface.

17. (New) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein each of said joint members has a cap member which covers one of the discharge ports or the supply ports by contacting the flat surface.

18. (New) A discharging apparatus comprising:

a discharge head, wherein said discharge head comprises a first flat surface having a plurality of discharge ports to discharge liquids, and a second flat surface having a plurality of supply ports, each of which connects to one of the discharge ports, wherein each of the discharge ports connects to an independent reservoir so as to discharge the liquids;

joint members equal in number to a number of discharge nozzles and being arranged to face either the discharge ports or the supply ports, wherein each of said joint members operates to cover either the supply port or the discharge port when removing the liquid in a discharge nozzle;

a connecting member selectively connectable to each of said joint members; and

a pump for being connected to said connecting member and removing the liquid in each of the discharge nozzles by applying a pressure difference between the supply port and the discharge port of each discharge nozzle.

19. (New) A discharging apparatus having a discharge head in which a plurality of

discharge nozzles are arranged to discharge liquids supplied from supply ports through discharge ports, comprising:

joint members equal in number to a number of the discharge nozzles and being arranged to face the discharge nozzles, wherein each joint member operates to cover either the supply port or discharge port when moving the liquid in a discharge nozzle;

a connecting member selectively connectable to each of said joint members; and

a pump for being connected to said connecting member and moving the liquid in a selected discharge nozzle by applying a pressure difference between the supply port and the discharge port of the selected discharge nozzle,

wherein the pressure difference of the pump is applied to the selected discharge nozzle by connecting said connecting member to one of the joint members which has been operated to cover either the supply port or the discharge port of the selected discharge nozzle.